

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /082 W

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P 040820Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7859

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 13148

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MPOL CH IN

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH

REF: PEKING 2092

1. ADDRESSEE POSTS WILL HAVE SEEN THE PRC FORMIN SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE RECENT SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH (REFTEL). THE CHINESE ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT STRIKES US AS HIGHLY DEFENSIVE.

2. PEKING CLAIMS THAT THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT CHUNA, IN THE CHINESE TERRITORY OF TIBET. HOWEVER, MAPS AVAILABLE HERE REVEAL THAT CHUNA IS LOCATED IN THE "AREA OF DEMILITARIZATION 20 KM ON EITHER SIDE OF THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL AS DEFINED BY THE CHINESE". TULUNG PASS, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS NORTH OF CHUNA AND LOCATED ON THE LINE OF ACTUAL
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(CHINESE) CONTROL.

3. GIVEN THE UNSETTLED SITUATION ON THE SUB-CONTINENT, PARTICULARLY IN BANGLADESH, BOTH CHINSE AND INDIAN AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE AUTHORIZED STEPPED UP PATROLS ALONG THE DISPUTED BORDER. THE CLASH MAY WELL HAVE ENSUED WHEN TWO SUCH PATROLS UNEXPECTEDLY ENCOUNTERED EACH OTHER.

4. CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT SOME HOTHEADED PERSON ON THE PRC SIDE MIGHT PROVOKE AN INCIDENT THAT COULD LEAD TO RENEWED SINO-INDIAN HOSTILITIES (OCT. 25, 1974 HK 11684 (EXDIS)). THIS MOST RECENT CLASH SUGGESTS THAT SUCH CONCERNS AND APPREHENSIONS ARE NOT UNWARRANTED. CROSS

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